



THE DIAMOND

Dordt sees a spike in COVID-19 cases after hitting zero

Zac VanderLey – Staff Writer

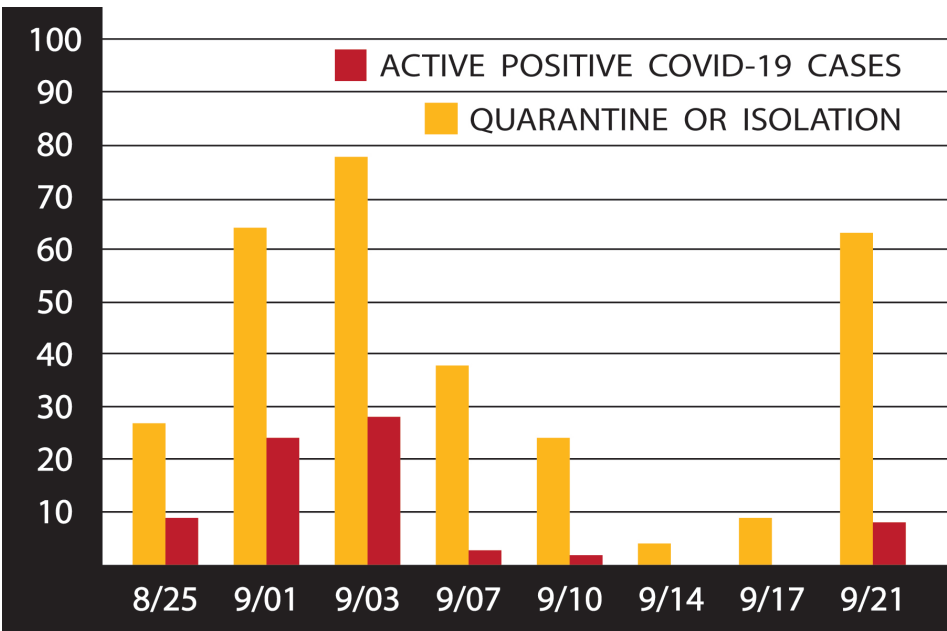
While the United States continued to record around 1,000 COVID-19 related deaths and 40,000 new cases daily, a small and rural Christian college had appeared to have proven itself different. On September 14, zero active COVID-19 cases were reported on Dordt’s campus with just four in quarantine or isolation. Yet this streak of health ended just a week later on September 21, with a documented 8 active cases and 63 students in quarantine or isolation.

“We must continue to remain vigilant about social distancing, wearing our masks, and keeping our interactions to 10-15 minutes in length,” President Hoekstra said in a press release.

As Dordt attempts to manage virus spread on campus, the surrounding Sioux County has reported a 29.2% case positivity rate as of September 17, according to the N’WEST Iowa Review. Other colleges around the country, most notably and closely Jamestown, have also seen massive breakouts often attributed to large parties without masks or social distancing.

In the midst of these high percentages and hot spots, Dordt is taking a cautious approach when dealing with symptomatic students.

“Once a student inputs a symptom through the Student Health Portal Symptom tracker, it notifies us on our end of the Health Portal,” Beth Baas, director of student health and counseling said. “They will receive a phone call asking them how they are feeling and recommending a COVID-19 test.”



Data sourced from Dordt’s COVID-19 communication page as of 9/23/20.
Graph made by Emma Stoltzfus

Students have remained compliant to this and accepted each test, adhering to the Community Covenant signed before the resumption of classes.

Baas has been impressed, but not surprised, at the unity shown by students throughout the beginning of the school year. She believes that a love for one’s neighbor has motivated the general adherence to these guidelines.

“The bottom line is we are proud of our students,” said Robert Taylor, co-leader of the COVID-19 task force. “It is thanks to all of you that it is different here.”

Still, the possibility exists for asymptomatic and unidentified cases on campus, especially given that Dordt has adhered to CDC guidelines initially discouraging the testing of asymptomatic individuals. The testing of large

bodies of students (most notably sports teams) was halted due to this advice.

As of last week, however, the CDC has walked back these protocols to now advise the testing of anyone in close contact to a positive test. Since then, students who “feel they have a compelling reason” to be tested may contact Student Health through the symptom tracker.

Once COVID-19 positive or contact traced, students face a complicated path on their return to campus from isolation or quarantine.

“Isolation is for those that are ill or infectious. And they will remain in isolation for at least 10 days. They cannot return to the Dordt community while experiencing symptoms,” Baas said.

On the other hand, quarantine is for those who are contact-traced, and they must remain in quarantine for at least 14 days from the date of contact with the positive individual. A negative test, however, is not required for either a contact-traced or positive-tested student to resume in-person classes and activities. At this time, Dordt does not recommend COVID-19 tests for contact-traced students unless they experience symptoms during the 14-day quarantine, despite CDC guidelines.

Diane Hurst, a sophomore journalism major, was placed into quarantine after being contact traced, yet she was allowed to attend classes on campus for another day before officially entering quarantine.

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There’s a battle brewing at the Harvest Festival

Katie Ribbens—Staff Writer

A gray-haired man studies a worn monochrome photo in Roelofs General Store. Then, with a decisive nod, he points a gnarled finger to a little boy seated at the feet of two stone-faced adults. “That was my dad,” he says to those nearby. A woman sits at the back of the one-room schoolhouse, built in 1928, and waves to an old tin lunchbox with peeling pine green paint. “That lunch box was mine,” she says with a twinkle in her eyes.

Sioux Center is not known for having a lot to do. COVID-19 isn’t known for allowing events to happen. This year’s Harvest Festival at the Sioux Center Heritage Village has defied

both of those odds. This family-friendly event on September 18-19 offered walks through century-old buildings, fun interactions with a hand-operated cider press, sheep shearing, a monarch butterfly exhibit, and a display of valuable trinkets from decades past, some as old as 1886.

“It’s truly fun for us to share our history, hear kids asking questions, seeing grandparents share memories of their own childhood,” said Colleen Van Berkum, a member of the Heritage Board, in an interview with Sioux Center News.

While special events like the Harvest...

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Photo credit: Katie Ribbens

Protests and police reform

Georgia Lodewyk - Staff Writer



Contributed photo

Many kids grow up watching television or movies. They often identify with the characters and watch each scene of action or mystery unfold. They may hope to one day become one of those heroes, and fictional characters prompt career choices further down the road. For some of those kids, solving mysteries and fighting crime as a police officer became their goal.

For Dordt University students like Nate Monillas and Sydney Krommendyk, that childhood interest has become a lifelong passion. Cop shows, mysteries, and other television programs fascinated them from a young age. Now, they are criminal justice majors, ready to live out a path they have been imagining for years.

“Ever since elementary school, I’ve wanted to be a cool town sheriff,” said Monillas, a junior from Lynwood, Washington.

But real-life law enforcement is not Hollywood.

On May 25, 2020, Minnesota police arrested George Floyd for the use of a counterfeit \$20 bill at a local Minneapolis grocery store. Officer Derek Chauvin killed Floyd as onlookers watched. Videos quickly started popping up on social media. Protests emerged nationally as people called for justice for Floyd, his family, and other victims of police brutality.

Since the death of Floyd, protests have successfully sparked police reform ...

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The handbook: a roadmap for Dordt

Lauren Hoekstra- Staff Writer

Although often quoted, many students on Dordt’s campus do not understand what the student handbook signifies or where it comes from. However, the rules in all Dordt handbooks (faculty, staff, and student) govern the actions of everyone involved at Dordt.

According to Robert Taylor, vice president for student success and dean of students, the student handbook has not changed much in recent years. It is a document that has stood the test of time. Recent major changes include an upgrade to Title IX rules in order to comply with federal regulations, an addition to the section on animals allowed at Dordt to include Emotional Support Animals, and policy on e-cigarettes.

In contrast, the faculty handbook is revised every year in August. To get something changed in the faculty handbook, changes must go through different processes depending on which chapter of the handbook is being revised. Certain faculty members are responsible for different areas in the handbook and a concern must first go to the appropriate person before recommendation to the Academic Senate.

The handbooks are “dynamic documents,” according to Howard Wilson, vice president for university operations. They are reviewed so that they do not become overly specific to the point where every issue breaks a rule.

Leah Zuidema, vice president for academic affairs, believes treating one another with courtesy and respect goes a long way regarding rules. If the group functions based on this, no need exists to spell out ‘don’t slap your neighbor,’ or ‘don’t swear at your neighbor’ because both simply fall under the ‘treat your neighbor with courtesy and respect’ guideline.

The faculty handbook contains every rule faculty members are expected to abide by. This includes curricular policies, such as how long student records of grades or exams are held, changes to courses that Dordt offers, and academic policies that include office hours and hiring practices. Also, sections in the faculty handbook hyperlink over to the staff handbook for topics including insurance and retirement options.

Most of the changes made to the handbooks primarily come from external sources rather than internal ones. As Dordt receives Title IV funds (including student loans and Pell grants), Dordt is required to comply with federal regulations.

Since the elimination of the provost position, and the addition of many different new titles to fill the role, several concepts needed to be changed in the handbook. Over the summer,

Zuidema worked on changing chapter four of the faculty handbook, which focuses on the hiring process, and approached the Academic Senate with a document showing all the changes she had made as well as a rationale document describing the importance of each change..

If the rules are broken either in the faculty or staff handbook, the action of the overseeing party depends on which handbook rule was broken.

“They want to be a part of a community that works in that way,” Zuidema said. “If in good conscience you see yourself going in a different way [than the Dordt standards], it is a requirement for you to speak up.”

Taylor lamented that, over time, the handbook has begun looking more like a legal document than anything else. Since the world has changed over the years, there has become more of a need for clearer rules for people to behave accordingly.

This summer, in order for students to return for the fall semester, some new guidelines had to be made. After many hours of meetings, the Roadmap for Reopening was created and announced to the greater Dordt community. Some colleges have 90+ pages of documents regarding specific actions that students/faculty/staff should and should not take. The Roadmap for Reopening is readable in half an hour.

“We want it to be a roadmap, not an encyclopedia.”
-Wilson

“A roadmap helps in the way that if you come upon construction or have to change course a bit, you can see the other roads and ways to go.” Wilson said.

Even when students do end up on the wrong side of the rules, Taylor commented that it is his personal goal to make sure that students feel loved throughout the process. Although the rules may seem set in stone, Taylor loves having conversations with students about the rules.

“I want to... make it less about rules and terms and more about who God is calling [the student] to be and how does this rule help [them] live that out,” Taylor said. “I want them to look in the mirror and ask who they are and who God is calling them to be.”

Sioux Center small businesses moving forward

Eoghan Holdahl - Staff Writer



Photo credit: Eoghan Holdahl

As Americans watched COVID-19 cripple the economy, Sioux Center and the surrounding community witnessed a different story unfold. Citizens and businesses have been working together to adapt to the challenges and unexpected circumstances brought by this year.

This past summer the businesses in town shut down in phases laid out by the governor of Iowa.

“That was really disheartening for our business community because I think we all hoped it would be short-lived,” said Barbara Den Herder, CEO of the Sioux Center Chamber of Commerce, “and it ended up being a much longer journey than we thought it would be.”

The chamber brings together hundreds of businesses in the area to promote industry and address the concerns of the community. In the past few months Den Herder and her staff viewed firsthand the struggles that employers are going through.

“The week before the shutdown our number one priority was recruiting employees for our businesses,” Den Herder said. “Most of our strategic priorities focused on ‘how can we attract people to move to Sioux Center? How can we make hiring people easier for our businesses?’ And the next week, people were putting employees on furlough and closing up shop.”

They needed something to stand between their businesses and an uncertain and undesirable future. The people of Sioux Center stepped up and showed themselves to be more than careless consumers. They searched out ways to keep commerce going and utilized the services available in town whenever possible. Den Herder said some people told her the pandemic forced them to explore nearby towns in search of services, as opposed to traveling to Sioux Falls or Sioux City.

In addition to community consumer support, Sioux Center Chamber of Commerce put together a small business recovery fund in April, starting off with \$50,000 from several local business. Small businesses experiencing

economic hardships applied for grants from \$500-5,000 to help them get by.

Brent Van Den Berg and his two brothers run the Furniture Mart on Main Street. They have recently experienced sales he could only describe as “uncommon,” as in uncommonly good. He is thankful for his employees and customers for the gracious ways they addressed the situations presented to them.

“I saw a lot of people come just in support of small businesses,” Van Den Berg said.

During quarantine, people who were stuck at home wanted to renovate. This created a natural demand for Furniture Mart’s floor covering. Even after people went back to work, the local demand for flooring and furniture continued. Business has continued to boom throughout town, with some larger companies having to hire more employees to keep up with demand.



Contributed photo

While the effects of COVID-19 are still resonating through Sioux Center, the differences between the local and national stories are stark. According to a July impact poll by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, COVID-19 has made “more than half [of U.S. small businesses] worry about having to permanently close”

Locally, people are considered part of a community where their success is tied up with the town’s overall economy. Nationally, people are considered as just consumers—a factor indicating supply and demand. While the national system has dehumanized community, cities like Sioux Center have emphasized the value of community and have reaped the benefits during a time of trials and uncertainty.

Dordt COVID-19 cases cont.

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...“I wasn’t experiencing symptoms, so I bought an antibodies test,” Hurst said. “Dordt told me that if I tested positive for anti-bodies, I could re-enter campus.”

Upon testing positive for anti-bodies, however, Diane was not allowed to return to campus because of a change in CDC guidelines the day before. Because of this, she would have needed a positive COVID-19 test as well as a positive anti-bodies test in order to return.

Hurst quarantined on August 24th and was told she could not return to campus until September 11th. Then she was told the 10th, and then the 9th, most of the communication coming from phone calls from different individuals. Eventually, she was allowed to attend classes on September 7th, a four-day change from the original date.

“It’s honestly not Dordt’s fault. I know the rules are constantly changing, but I just wish there was more consistency for students

knowing when they should come and go,” Hurst said.

Some parts of her experienced fared better. “People from campus ministry called and prayed for me,” Hurst said.

Stephen Marques, a junior business major, also found joy in Dordt’s response.

“Dordt did a phenomenal job of supporting me and helping me out,” Marques said. “Sure, they missed it in the communications at first with a couple odd meals, but they apologized for that and blessed me with tons of snacks.”

Nationwide, schools have struggled to place effective COVID-19 containment measures on their students and faculty. But the Dordt administration is putting trust in their students.

“Statistically it is hard to be completely accurate,” Robert Taylor, co-leader of the COVID-19 task force said. “We are all taxed. And we would like to be better, but we all have the same goal: to be here on December 12th.”

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The gift that keeps on giving: Dordt alumni as professors

Mikaela Wegner—Staff Writer

Education ranks as one of the top majors at Dordt. And out of the sixteen people who comprise the education department faculty, ten attended Dordt as a student. Something about their college experience drew them in, and something compelled them to return, even though they might not be able to place a finger on what did.

Mary Beth Pollema, assistant professor of education, is in her seventh year of teaching at Dordt. She planned on attending university after high school but did not think she could afford attending Dordt. She looked into other schools, but after attending a wedding on the campus and moving close to Sioux Center with her family, Dordt all of a sudden became a real option.

“I just fell in love with the campus,” Pollema said. “And I figured, ‘Well, I can go to Dordt and live at home.’”

She commuted from home to save money, but after just a month she switched to living on campus.

“I never regretted it,” said Pollema. “It was such a formative time.”

Dr. Gwen Marra, a fellow education professor, experienced the campus community welcoming her with open arms.

“The experiences that I remember most from my undergrad are when I got to go into classrooms and teachers would encourage me to teach as much as possible.” Mara said.

The pressing question remains: why are these past students drawn back? Both Pollema and Marra never thought as students that they would return as professors. But when Pollema returned to Dordt after graduating, she still felt right at home.

“That’s what really made me excited about being part of the faculty at Dordt, is that that same heartbeat that I was really excited about and thrilled by as a student, that DNA was still there”. Pollema said.

Dordt played an instrumental role in the life of Pollema, now she had the opportunity to return the favor. She could, as the mission statement of the university states, “[foster] a climate in which discipleship becomes a practiced way of life both on and off campus.”

“I think that’s probably what brought me back, is I wanted to be a part of that effort, of showing teachers how to teach in a way that’s going to impact not only minds but impact hearts.” Pollema said.

Dr. Dave Mulder, associate professor of education, agrees.

“I am so pleased to be a part of this community,” said Mulder. “For me this feels like an opportunity to give back to a place that I’ve gotten so much from personally and professionally”.

Unlike Pollema, Marra has lived in Sioux Center all her life. A picture of her kindergarten

class hangs up in her home, with the younger faces of her and two other Dordt professors in the image.

Mulder also holds deep ties with Dordt. He feels a sense of legacy with the institution.

His grandpa helped found it, and his mother graduated from it years later. Because of the deep history he and many other families have with the university, Mulder worries Dordt may not appear as inviting to students who have no connections at the school.

“Are we as welcoming as we think we are?” Mulder said. “I think that’s a question we need to wrestle with. I hope that the answer is yes.”

A large part of the history of Dordt pairs with its association to Christian Reformed denomination.

“I’m like a fish swimming in water, I don’t even know the water exists because I’m in it all the time,” Mulder said. “For someone who is new to that worldview... how do we frame that in a way that is welcoming for people and inviting them?”

In an effort to take steps towards welcoming all peoples and backgrounds, Dordt has put together a New Faculty Seminar, which Mulder is a part of. Every two weeks, the group meets to discuss what teaching at Dordt should look like. Mulder feels these meetings help broaden his and others’ worldviews.

“It’s a big trampoline, let’s invite everybody to come jump.”
-Mulder

Regardless of technical faith background or legacy with the institution, Mulder believes being a Dordt student is life changing.

“There’s something formational that happens here - and I don’t use that word lightly.” Mulder said. “I am different today than I was when I came to Dordt because of the experiences I had as a student at Dordt that shaped me.”

When interviewed to teach full-time at Dordt, Mulder was asked a series of questions by the Faculty Senate. One came from a former professor of his.

“How do you see your faith impacting your work?” He said.

Dr. Mulder began to answer, and his professor smiled from across the table.”

“I had this horrible out of body experience.” Mulder said. “I realized, I learnt this in your class twenty years ago and now it became part of me and now I’m saying it!

Wildfires rage in the Pacific Northwest

Zac VanderLey – Staff Writer



Photo credit: Komo News

The lush, green forests of the Evergreen State have faded to gray. Over 790,000 acres of vibrant land has been torched at the tongues of fire. Life seems to have taken on characteristics from Jack London’s bleak, naturalist novels.

The wildfires, which started in California, have spread throughout the Pacific Northwest, forcing civilians to evacuate their homes and keeping firefighters occupied for days on end. Washington possessed the lowest air quality in the world on September 14th. Outdoor church services were canceled, parks were abandoned, and even the Seattle Mariners were forced to postpone their series with the San Francisco Giants due to the dangerous air levels. According to Channon Visscher, chemistry and planetary science professor, the fine matter in the air makes it difficult and thus dangerous to breathe.

“The smoke is made up of small particulates. There is some ash as well,” Visscher said. “Gasses are also released but the majority of the danger comes from the small particulates.”

The extremely low levels of air quality in Washington have forced some sensitive populations to stay indoors or evacuate. COVID-19, the ever-present entity, has also thrown a wrinkle in this year’s fires. Visscher called the smoke a “risk multiplier” since it harmfully affects the lungs. According to the CDC, the inhalation of wildfire smoke inflames the lungs and makes one more likely to contract different types of lung infections, including COVID-19.

The Pacific Northwest is no stranger to wildfires. They were a common natural occurrence even before people settled in this part of the world.

“What makes places like California and Washington prime locations for fire are the dry forests, along with longer drought and low humidity,” Visscher said.

The strong winds from the mountains push and spread the fire. Under these conditions, large fires can be started by anything from campfires to lightning. One expecting couple in Northern California had plans for an ornate gender reveal. They took the trend to the next level with a smoke bomb, which caught fire and spread to the dry grass of El Dorado Ranch Park. Over 20,000 people have been forced to evacuate from to this man-made fire—one that

is hardly contained, according to the New York Times.

Alex Bakker, brother of Dordt junior Anneka Bakker, works as a forestry technician fighting fires in Northern California. Since May 26, Bakker has been cutting down brush and other large overgrowth in attempts to control the fires.

“Fires need heat, oxygen, and fuel to survive,” said Bakker. “If we can remove its fuel, then it won’t spread. That’s where my job comes in.”

Bakker sometimes flies into sites on a helicopter. The hikes to sites range from 30-45 minutes. Each firefighter carries a 35-pound pack while wearing thick, heavy clothes. They work fourteen-hour shifts, waking up at 5:30 am and ending at 10:00 pm. Bakker is currently containing a fire in Happy Camp, California, that burned down more than half of the city.

“I’m not going to lie, it’s pretty dangerous. Sometimes I’m chest deep in blackberry bushes, and the fire can move very quickly with an increasing flame length,” Bakker said. He was not certain if this year’s fires were necessarily worse than previous years, however, he did indicate that the fire’s behavior is changing.

Some people have pointed to climate change as the penultimate cause of the extra fires.

“The fires won’t add too much heat to global warming, but the change in climate has made conditions for fire more common,” Professor Visscher said.

The smoke from the fires actually produces a cooling effect on the planet because of the cloud it forms in the atmosphere. However, the carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide from the flames remain destructive.

While Washington and California seem like an entirely different country compared to the flat, rural, cornfields of Sioux Center, Iowa, smoke has reached across the Midwest.

“It’s sad because that’s my home,” Riley Van Hulzen, a junior education major from Lynden, Washington said. “My Dad will send me a picture of the haze, and what can I do about it?”

Late night driving has become dangerous due to the limited vision. Outdoor activities like hiking, backpacking, and mountain biking have seen less interest.

“I remember when I went home last summer, I was looking forward to seeing the mountains, and the smoke had blocked Mt. Baker,” Van Hulzen said. “It was a cloud of sadness.”



Photo credit: Komo News

Police reform cont.

cont. from pg. 1

...throughout the United States. According to a study from USA Today, over 34 U.S. cities have made changes, including better training and education for police officers, a ban on the use of chokeholds, and defunding police forces.

Professor Jon Moeller has been in law enforcement for 27 years, serving in Washington D.C, Kansas City, MO, and northwest Iowa. As a criminal justice professor at Dordt, Moeller works to prepare students for a career in law enforcement or criminal science. This includes the current challenges that future law enforcement officers must recognize.

“As information has sped up, so has the process of trying to effect change, but it is so divisive right now that there’s not even a dialogue to be had.” Moeller said. “We can’t even come to the table to have that discussion, and that’s what’s troublesome.”

Fighting against police brutality is one issue, but fighting against systemic racism is another. Professor Moeller and his criminal justice students say they can be involved in a positive

change.

“I think reform is a good thing... policing in general will get better,” Monillas said.

Knowing about the issues and potential reforms our world is facing adds a new level of purpose for many criminal justice majors.

“If you truly want justice, you are going to fight for what’s right...what better way to do that than within the police system itself?” said Krommendyk, a freshman double-majoring in criminal justice and psychology.

Being a law enforcement officer in real life is not as simple as its portrayal in television shows and movies. It is a profession of fast-paced decision-making and, Professor Moeller says, opportunities for Christ-like grace.

“When you are grounded in scripture and your belief system, but you are also willing to understand the individual and approach them with grace...that’s how you bring about change.” Moeller said.

Social distancing and the arts: the show must go on

Tabetha DeGroot- Staff Writer



Contributed photo

The Black Box Theater has been uninhabited for quite some time, but it is once again filled with life. For the first time since March, actors command the stage at a regular weeknight practice.

The stage is currently more of a clearing between chairs, benches, and numerous props and set pieces. Some actors sit among the clutter, studying their lines or doing homework. Others are simply goofing around, but as soon as they cross the threshold onto the stage, they enter a different world. Even though they wear masks and street clothes, they have become different people as they move about the space, delivering lines. Director Laurel Koerner circles around the stage, observing the work of her actors from every angle. It’s a typical Tuesday night in the Black Box, but it’s long overdue.

This year’s fall mainstage, *Arms and The Man*, is set to be performed on the weekends of October 15-17 and 22-24. *Arms and the Man* is a nineteenth century comedy written by George Bernard Shaw. The play, set during the 1885 Serbo-Bulgarian war, uses comedy to point out the foolishness of war and the fickleness of human nature.

“Seemed like a good time to do a comedy and bring some levity to campus,” Koerner said when asked why she chose *Arms and the Man* for this year’s fall mainstage. The show will provide a nice escape with colorful characters and smart humor.

Rehearsals are going smoothly now, but as with everything in these times, there have been a good deal of obstacles.

“We were missing two of our seven actors for the first two weeks [due to COVID-19]” said Koerner, “Which just meant kind of flip-flopping some of the typical steps in the process.”

The actors in quarantine attended practices via Zoom. When asked what the performances will look like, Koerner said that it “remains to be seen.” For now, the actors wear masks and pantomime scenes that involve physical contact, but the hope is to have a normal performance.

Despite the COVID-related obstacles, creativity still shines through on the stage. “[We’re] finding new ways to be creative,” said senior Selena Munson, who plays Raina, one of the lead female roles, “It has been a little bit frustrating at some points because we have to have masks on all the time and I feel like facial expressions can be such a large part of comedy especially, but overall... I don’t think its really held us back.”

Junior Gerrit Vandyk, who plays the role of Major Paul Petkoff, also found the rehearsals to have have gone surprisingly well. “I think one of the coolest things is watching all of the characters come to life,” he said, “As soon as you get the words [of the script] off the page and into mouths.. everything becomes a lot clearer and more fun.”

Tickets can be purchased on dordt.edu, but the cabinet and theater department are still in discussion about who will be allowed in the audience and how Dordt’s color code will affect performances. While the final product remains a bit of a mystery for now, the show must go on.

Harvest Festival cont.

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...Festival only occur about once each season, the Heritage Village is open to the public year-round. Buildings are available for rent at events, and the 70 varieties of trees attract members from the community to photograph, collect leaves for school projects, or simply provide a scenic venue for a walk. Anna Herman, a freshman at Dordt University, remembers collecting leaves for a school project when she was younger.

“I was excited to be here,” Herman said while attending this year’s Harvest Festival. “It’s been years.”

Many members of the community have contributed to the Heritage Village in some way. Buildings, stowed-away trinkets, and stories have been shared and volunteers have worked tirelessly to preserve Sioux Center history.

The Heritage Village seeks to educate the next generation about everything from protecting the environment to sharing about life during wartimes.

“Seventy-five years ago, World War Two ended,” Heritage Board member Linda Altena said. “We would like to honor our veterans in Sioux Center.”

But this mission is on a ticking clock.

The city is not funding new projects and Sioux Center organizations are making bids for the land. While Dordt donated the Kuhl House and some students visit the public grounds, many don’t realize that the village exists on the other side of the road. The Heritage Village is hidden behind its 190 trees, out of sight from many Dordt students.

“We would love to have more participation from Dordt students,” Altena said.

But Dordt has other ideas. The University is pushing for Sioux Center to build an indoor turf facility on Open Space Park, part of which is currently in use by the Heritage Village.

The Village can’t move without irrecoverably damaging the buildings or killing the trees. It’s a stalemate.

“Our heart is to be a good citizen and I think a community asset like this will be one of the best uses of resources we could add,” said Dordt’s President Erik Hoekstra in a Sioux Center News article.

Hoekstra also hopes that students can gain leadership and management experience at this facility.

Heritage Board members worry that their voices aren’t being heard.

“Why would you really wipe this village out when we’re in Iowa. There’s so much land around us,” Van Berkum said. “It would be easier to move a soccer field than to move a village.”

Herman, who runs track at Dordt, would rather see the Village kept where it is than to have use of an indoor facility across the road.

Dordt freshman McKenna Gorsline attended the Harvest Festival event and agrees that it would be difficult to move even part of the Heritage Village to make room for a new complex.

“It definitely would not be the same,” Gorsline said.

The Heritage Board sees untapped potential at the Village. They would like to add more buildings, find a full-time caretaker, and maybe even turn the Kuhl House into a bed & breakfast.

“The city’s just putting the kibosh on everything,” Altena said.

While the Heritage Board is trying to keep Sioux Center history alive in the village, they are also facing a new battle with keeping the festival going. If they fail to endear the Village to the public, this year’s Harvest Festival may have been the last.



Photo credit: Katie Ribbens

Dordt University students gather for all-campus movie

Jaclyn Vander Waal – Staff Writer

At 8:15 pm this past Saturday, Dordt University students Jonah Bader, AJ Funk, Eli Dykstra and Calvin Bader carried their small, brown couch from their first-floor apartment in Southview to the middle of the campus green.

They piled next to each other on the couch in the breezy 63-degree weather and waited for the clock to reach 8:30.

Scattered around them, most other people set up lawn chairs or blankets to lay on. One student brought a bean bag chair to sit in.

At 8:30, Jake Thorsteinson, a Dordt Student Activities leader, made a short announcement to remind those in the crowd of more than 75 to sit with people already on their COVID-19 contact tracing list. The Disney film *Moana* was then projected onto a large, inflatable screen.

Thorsteinson said COVID-19 limited the number of student activities events this year. The all-campus movie made the cut due to strong attendance in the last two years. Originally, the idea for an all-campus movie night came from residence hall wing events. Students seemed to enjoy watching movies with their wing, so Dordt Student Activities scaled it up and created a campus-wide event.

“This is a really great event to have even with social distancing because you can spread out pretty well,” said Carolyn Rayhons, a junior.

Hannah Adams, one of Rayhons’ roommates, attended the movie to give her mind a rest.

“I have been doing too much research for history papers, and I need a break,” she said. “Plus, with other events being taken away,

I’m glad that they kept this one because this is always one of the most fun ones.”

Throughout the movie, students’ heads bobbed along with the music and bursts of laughter rolled throughout the crowd. Students giggled especially loudly when Maui, self-proclaimed hero of all, was pushed over when the ocean threw the Heart of Te Fiti at him.



Contributed photo

Funk particularly enjoyed the musical aspect of the movie.

“If you don’t think this is a singalong, you are wrong,” he said with a chuckle.

A breeze created ripples on the screen during the entire movie, adding to the animation of the ocean scenes.

In the final battle of the movie, the wind caused the ropes holding the screen up to come undone, and the screen blew over. Students’ gasps were heard throughout the crowd. In its absence, the movie was projected for a few minutes onto the French Fries sculpture that stood behind the screen and held the rope tight himself. Students applauded the act. Thorsteinson stayed to hold up the screen for the remaining minutes of the film.

“My thoughts went something like this: Well, I’m sure glad there’s only 15 minutes left of this movie and something along the lines of trying to remember my middle school outdoor-knot-tying classes,” Thorsteinson said.

Following the film, the chilly students quickly bundled up their blankets, folded up their lawn chairs, carried their couches and dispersed across campus to their dorms or apartments.

Review: The Devil All the Time

Daniel Ketchelos- Staff Writer



Hypocrisy, deception, and violence are not foreign concepts to those living in Knockemstiff, Ohio. The recent Netflix adaptation of Donald Ray Pollock’s novel, The Devil All the Time, explores themes surrounding the constant presence of evil in the world.

The devil does not rest in post-World War II rural America. Serial killers, corrupt officials, and twisted Christianity dominate these backwoods. The main character, Arvin Russell (Tom Holland), seeks to understand why bad things keep happening to good people.

One of the central themes of this film is the absence of God. Individuals cry out to Him but are unable to hear His reply. Many of the behaviors in this film are representative of the individual struggle to hear God speak. Corrupt preacher Roy Laferty (Harry Melling), goes to extreme lengths to urge God to connect with him. In an especially grueling scene, Reverend Roy pours an entire mason jar of large spiders onto his face during a sermon. Roy seeks to hear from God, so he tests God by asking Him to protect him through adverse conditions.

Other themes found in this film include death, responding to evil, and corrupt officials. Many of the evil tendencies result from characters dealing with the deaths of others. Violence sparks violence in this film, and the evils only get worse. Another corrupt preacher, Preston Teagardin (Robert Pattinson), seduces young and oblivious church girls into sexual relationships with him. Husband-wife serial killers, Carl (Jason Clarke), and Sandy Henderson (Riley Keough), travel throughout the backwoods in search of their next victims. There is no shortage of evil characters in this film, and eventually, Arvin collides with all of them.

Strong acting, gritty visuals, and important

Contributed photos
themes are strong points in The Devil All the Time. These evil characters are performed well by the cast. Accents are hard to pull off, but Robert Pattinson, and the rest of the cast, create realistic portrayals of southern dialects. The visuals also fit the darker themes. Cinematographer Lol Crawley and director Antonio Campos decided to step away from digital recording in favor of shooting the entire piece on 35mm film. Shooting on film complements the dark themes by adding gritty textures and more muted colors. The themes found throughout leave the viewer questioning why good people are treated badly.

“Innocence is stripped away throughout this film, and there aren’t any instances of redemption.”

There were many hard elements to take in while viewing this piece, and there was a lot I did not enjoy about the film. First, it has an immense amount of gruesome violence. In one scene, a military soldier is shown slathered with blood and hanging from a cross by pocket-knives. Later, a woman is stabbed in the neck with a screwdriver spilling blood from her neck. Also, the serial-killer-duo is not afraid of violently killing their victims in the strangest way possible. If you cannot handle extreme violence, do not watch this film. Christian ideals are also represented poorly. While it is understandable to show corruption in the church, the lack of redemption is the issue. This film portrays Christians in a cult-like manner and does not show an accurate representation of proper Christianity. Despite this, Campos accurately showed what corruption in the church can look like. The biggest issue I had was the constant narration throughout the film. This continually distracted me and made the film less effective. If they only used narration at the beginning of the film, or even cut it completely it would have been a much stronger piece.

I found The Devil All the Time to be an accurate, time-specific piece exploring gruesome themes. Many directors shy away from stories that are hard to tell, but I wish that Campos had incorporated more redemption into this film. If you have Netflix, I would only recommend watching this if you are not easily disturbed by extreme violence or sexual content. Overall, my rating is a 5.5/10 because of extreme violence and lack of redemption.



Review: Coming-of-age clichés done right

Gretchen Lee—Staff Writer

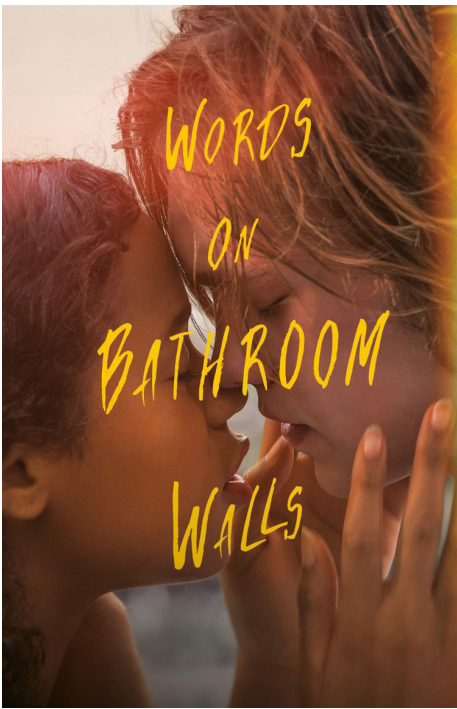
The “sick teenagers in love” story has been rehashed almost twice a year since the release of The Fault in Our Stars in 2014. Most of the subsequent movies have felt like increasingly bland renditions of the same tropes thrown into a blender with no satisfying result. When I heard about Words on Bathroom Walls, I figured this movie would be the usual fare. I was, thankfully, very wrong.

Words on Bathroom Walls follows the story of Adam, a senior in high school recently diagnosed with schizophrenia. After accidentally injuring another student during his first major episode, he switches to the local Catholic high school and meets Maya, the class valedictorian who he hires to tutor him. As he navigates this new friendship, his new treatment plan, his desire to get into culinary school, and his increasingly tense relationship with his stepfather, Adam learns about what it means to allow people to love even the darkest parts of himself.

this movie shone in a number of ways. The cinematography was expert, with camera angles perfectly matching the mental state of the main character. The director chose to have the audience see events from the perspective of Adam, revealing his black and white interpretation of the world and allowing the audience to fill in the gray areas in between. An excellent score also supported the stellar camera work.

The characters were realistic and unique, from Maya’s sharp and honest wit to Adam’s sarcastic-but-not-overly-moody tone.

“It was easy to become invested in the lives of each character.”



Contributed photos

Despite being full of all the usual clichés in a coming-of-age movie about a teenager fighting an illness, this movie was one of the first I have seen where the tropes actually made sense. The “giving a speech in front of the whole class assembly” moment felt realistic because of a logical setup for the moment. Similar things could be said of the “first kiss” and the “you deserve someone whole to love you” moments; there was logical momentum leading up to these scenes that kept them from feeling like clichés.

Outside of its superb handling of tropes,

Although the entire film was framed from Adam’s perspective, the other characters were relatable and human; and even when Adam told the audience that his mother was pushing him away, the audience could still see her struggling to remain close to her son and relate to his emotions.

Additionally, the handling of mental illnesses and schizophrenia was elegantly and honestly done. The film addressed the topic in a way that helped the audience understand Adam’s struggle with his illness but refused to sugarcoat or trivialize these difficulties that real people struggle with every day.

Another element of this movie that surprised me was the subtle, but positive representation of Christianity. Adam doesn’t believe in God, but the Catholic high school he attends is never villainized or made to seem “preachy” simply for being Christian. Throughout the story, Adam becomes friends with the priest who serves during student confession and mass. This priest encourages Adam to seek God, but also looks to help him outside his spiritual battle by getting to know him personally and creating a relationship with him. In a world where Christianity in movies is either brushed over, set up to look overly perfect, or made to be an antagonistic force, the portrayal of Christianity in this movie and the kind, honest priest character were a breath of fresh air.

Overall, this is a coming-of-age movie that succeeds in many ways few other films have and was a pleasure to watch. Hopefully other coming-of-age movies in the future will take Words on Bathroom Walls as an example to be emulated.



Isolated images: COVID-19 and its impact on the film industry

Sam Landstra- Staff Writer



Photo credit: Sam Landstra

On most days, the Cinema 5 movie theater is not busy. It is not busy today, either. It is unbusy. It is exceptionally unbusy.

In the dog days of a summer defined by COVID-19, the parking lot bares itself to the late afternoon sun. Only a few cars provide it shade. One of them belongs to Josiah Culpepper.

Culpepper, a junior digital media major at Dordt, is an hour into his closing shift at the theater. He sits behind a glass shield at the ticket booth, waiting for a job to do. Apart from distant chatter from the nearby Pizza Ranch, it is quiet. He reads a book to pass the time.

A pair of moviegoers break the monotony. They are here to see Tenet, the new Christopher Nolan movie released just yesterday. Culpepper asks them a series of questions about potential COVID-19 exposure. A laminated sign taped to the glass advises patrons to take proper social distancing precautions.

After a summer and spring where movie theaters shuttered their doors, filmmakers ground projects to a halt, and studios pushed new releases months into the future, the film industry appeared to falter.

AMC Entertainment, the largest theater chain in the nation, lost \$561.2 million in their second quarter alone, according to Variety.

Other theaters already flirting with bankruptcy shut down completely. They didn't have a happy ending.

For many, Tenet acted as a lifeline to the industry. The the blockbuster film did little to keep it afloat, grossing \$6.7 million at the US box office according to IndieWire.

While it ranks the most popular movie at Cinema 5, Tenet has failed to revive the regular crowds. Around a half dozen people wander their way in for the set of 6:00 shows tonight instead of the typical sixty or so from previous summers, a ninety percent decrease.

"We're not a crazy busy theater in the first place," Culpepper said. "Some nights I won't even have to drop off money because we didn't make any."

When Cinema 5 shut down operations during the height of the pandemic in the spring, they kept up a revenue stream by selling concessions at the door. A customer could call ahead and place an order for popcorn, a soft pretzel, or even a candy bar at discounted prices.

"With movie theaters, we only get a fraction of the ticket price. So, for us it worked really well," Culpepper said. "The community was very supportive."

Come Memorial Day weekend, theaters

across Iowa received the OK from Governor Kim Reynolds to reopen their doors, so long as they keep proper health protocols.

"I definitely thought we were all going to get corona within the first couple of weeks," Culpepper said.

Each day, Culpepper checked the temperatures, masks, and recent travel history of his coworkers before they began their shift together. Any time a moviegoer entered a theater, an employee would mark their seat on a chart. In between showtimes, they wiped the theaters down with disinfectant. On the part of the customer, masks and social distancing were encouraged, as well as paying with card. Some met these changes with passive aggression.

"A lot of people around here [believe] the virus is a hoax," Culpepper said. "I felt like I had to defend what was going on and the procedures we were taking."

While the health and safety precautions kept the theater open for the entirety of the summer without a positive COVID-19 case, it struggled to draw people in. Without new releases, a collection of classic movies at cheaper prices rotated in and out instead.

"I had probably seen it a million times or I didn't want to spend the money on it," Professor Josh Matthews said.

Matthews runs a popular film review channel on YouTube. COVID-19 relegated his bi-weekly trips to Cinema 5 to a screening room in the Ribbens Academic Complex. He didn't step in a theater all summer. It was Tenet that brought him back, with his pencil and notebook in hand.

"Those movies are made for the big screen," Matthews said. "I realized I hadn't done that for six to eight montvhs."

With films like Mulan migrating from a theatrical to a streaming release, and recent streaming exclusives such as Da Five Bloods and Palm Springs, Matthews believes the casual moviegoer may have trouble getting back into the habit of attending the theater.

"I don't think it's bad... It's just different," Matthews said. "I don't think they will die off though, because I think the social aspect is important."

But even as media buzz surrounds the delayed releases of big budget films like No Time to Die and Top Gun: Maverick, amateur filmmakers have had their work complicated by

COVID-19 as well.

Demetrius Rowser, a senior digital media major at Dordt, had to cancel the filming of a short film he wrote during quarantine. He had finalized the cast and crew; all he needed to do was start shooting. The semester that lay before him however, contained too many unknowns.

"It took out a lot of hope for this year," Rowser said. "I think a lot of my joy was riding in this project."

Rowser instead plans to establish the Fanatic Filmmaker Club. This will be a place where students from all majors can propose and work on short films for the campus community

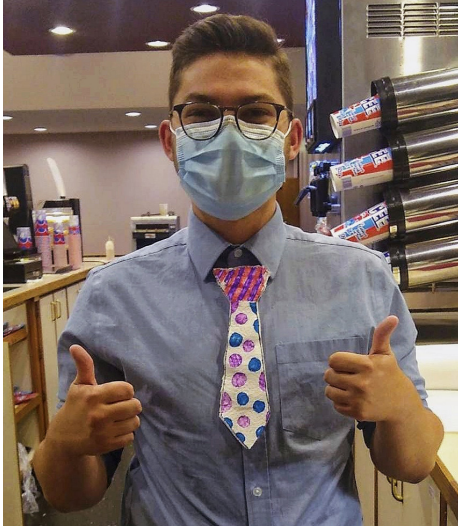


Photo credit: Josiah Culpepper

to watch.

"I'm worried about digital media majors right now," Rowser said. "I'm hoping people are finding ways, given the current circumstances right now, to put their creativity out there."

At Cinema 5, Culpepper watches the last moviegoers leave the theater and filter out into the empty mall. He grabs a mop to clean the aisles, his rubber soles sticking to the linoleum with each step. Even the employees have left now; the theater is nearly quiet. The hiss of the projectors makes the only noise. Culpepper shuts them off.

"It's not the most eventful," Culpepper said. "The days were slow, but we had fun."

It is midnight. He exits the building and locks the doors behind him. His car sits alone in the parking lot. The movies play on.

The Bubble: a large canvas solution for Dordt gatherings

Elise Wennberg—Staff Writer

COVID-19 has caused many complications for Dordt University—one of them being space. Within Dordt there are only so many large spaces that can be used at one time. The solution: a large, blue tent next to the Commons.

According to Howard Wilson, vice president of university operations, the tent in lot 13 will be used for five main affairs. These include overflow dining, large gatherings, special events, classes, and "things that have not happened that might happen." Students can also book the tent if they require a large space. Wilson expects the tent to be up for about two months, or until Thanksgiving break.

"[We're] creating a roadmap, not an

encyclopedia; our roadmap helps us get to December 11th with face-to-face instruction, residential living, and community dining," Wilson said. "Our roadmap has to be flexible; it is like when you're driving and all a sudden there's a detour, you just have to figure that into your plan."

The tent came from Doug and Cindy Hubers, local owners of Midwest Tent Rental. It measures 60 feet by 120 feet, allowing for 150 people to social distance under the canvas. It features a television and speakers, doors, and a space heater.

Dordt picked lot 13 for its closeness to the Commons and hard surface. Because this location sacrifices student parking spaces, more spots have opened up for students behind the Theatre Arts Center and B.J. Haan.

To ensure the tent's safety and sturdiness, the maintenance crew drilled into the concrete to secure the tent to the ground. Tying down the tent also provides an airtight space, protecting the people inside the tent from the wind and weather.

Coach Griffin Pelot and eight football members also aided in setting up the tent, working alongside the maintenance and ground crews. Zane Gunter, a sophomore running back on the team, helped with this process. Gunter said setting up the tent took about two hours in total.

"There was plenty of hands-on work to be done throughout the process, so our group



stayed busy," Gunter said.

Once the crew secured the tent with ropes and connecting clips, they began setting up the poles and support beams that held up the tent walls.

"The football team is thankful for the newer, larger meeting space," Gunter said. "I want to thank Howard Wilson and the rest of the faculty at Dordt, including the maintenance and grounds teams, for the hard work and diligence that was required to acquire the tent and set it up."

Photo credits: Elise Wennberg

Once the had been put up, Dordt administration held a contest to name it. Dordt students submitted potential names via email directly to Howard Wilson for the chance to win a \$30 gift card to the campus store. An independent selection committee met and deliberated over names ranging from "Shalom Dome" to "Commons 2.0" and "The Turquoise Tent." In the end, they picked a name submitted by freshman Aaron De Jong and dubbed the tent "The Bubble"



The Stand: nine hours of worship and testimonies

Aleasha Hintz – Staff Writer



Contributed photo

It’s Sunday, September 20th. A local farmer, Mark Vermeer, is hosting a nine-hour worship event in Sioux Center. Families, couples, and young adults gather on the football field to worship as attendees of The Stand. Lawn chairs and blankets speckle the turf, and the gray, windy skies keep the area cool.

The inspiration for The Stand goes back to 1999 when Vermeer had an encounter with God at a youth event. Vermeer was a counselor, and one night the worship pressed on despite the singers leaving. Students and counselors alike chanted the words from a song called “Agnus Dei,” singing “Worthy, you are worthy,” for nine minutes after the lights went out. Nobody wanted to stop.

“That element is the hope for this event,” Vermeer said. Two and a half years ago he listening to that song again and felt led to recreate the experience. After a year of praying on it, Vermeer, his wife, and their daughter began working on making that dream a reality.

Vermeer’s daughter Aftyn is a junior business major at Dordt. She did most of the scheduling and worship band recruiting for the event. Aftyn attempted to make The Stand a community-based event by recruiting area worship bands, speakers, and pastors for the day. She also led one of the worship groups. The day before, Aftyn said her foremost hope was that “The truth and the glory of Jesus would be undeniable.” Vermeer agreed.

One speaker in the afternoon, David Gomez from Iglesia Nueva Esperanza, preached his message in both English and Spanish to reach both sides of the community. Most people were seated on the field or in the bleachers. The worshippers leaned in towards the stage as they sang.

“We are called to be united, loving one another,” Gomez said.

Since the initial outbreak of COVID-19, gatherings like this have become rare.

“If there’s no risk, what’s the purpose of gathering?” Vermeer said. “He [Jesus] risked his life for us, the least we can do is worship.” Aftyn said her wish is that the Holy Spirit will put a desire in people’s hearts and that this desire would override any fear.

Few people chose to wear masks or socially distance at The Stand, and neither were enforced. A modest-yet-engaged crowd formed near the stage, and volunteers in blue shirts littered the field and surrounding area. Children yelled as they played on the side of the field. One volunteer twirled colorful flags to the music. Strangers conversed about their faith and worries near the food trucks.

One high school volunteer, Myka Schut, said she found serving at The Stand to be a great opportunity to help others grow in their faith and to stretch her own.

“It’s a win-win,” Schut said.

It is not a coincidence that The Stand is held on September 20. The first half of Luke 9:20 served as a theme for the day’s worship. “But what about you?” he [Jesus] asked. “Who do you say I am?”

It’s late. Large lights illuminate the field and the crowd had quieted as they reflect on the last nine hours of speakers, music, and prayer. As The Stand comes to a close, attendees are encouraged to answer the question from Luke for themselves. Vermeer says he hopes by the end of the night, people will know the answer to this question and want to tell others about Jesus. It’s been a long day of worship; the crowd disperses and quiet falls over the football field.

Defender Days cancelled

Lexi Schnaser - Staff Writer

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dordt has cancelled Defender Days. This is normally one of the biggest events of the year and in past years included parents’ breakfasts with the president, alumni celebrations, sporting events, concerts, and theatre productions. The events originally scheduled for October 16 and 17 this year have been canceled—affecting students, family, and alumni.

For some Dordt students, Defender Days is the only time they see their family between summer and Christmas break. This is the case for junior Brittany Bloemhof, whose family lives in California.

“Typically, my parents would come for Defender Days. They’ve been coming since my older sisters were at Dordt,” Bloemhof said. This year her family felt unsure of what would happen with Defender Days, so they decided not to purchase plane tickets for the event.

“We knew it would be different. We thought maybe it would be online. Either way, we wanted to respect whatever decision Dordt made,” Bloemhof said.

For Bloemhof, Defender Days is more than just a weekend to visit; it’s a longstanding tradition for her family. Bloemhof’s parents met at Dordt and graduated in 1989, and her sisters graduated in 2017 and 2019. Both sisters were involved in music and athletics at Dordt, and Bloemhof would watch them in concerts and

games over Defender Days.

The weekend is usually packed with sporting events, concerts, and theatre productions, all of which are well-attended by family and alumni. This year, many of those events will still happen, but they will look a bit different. As seen in Dordt’s athletic events so far, campus activities will not be open to the public. However, participants will be given a select number of tickets they can give to their friends or family, limiting the audience for these events.

Bloemhof has been in the fall mainstage production in previous years and is interested to see how this year will look different.

“One of the most fun parts about the production is having your classmates there, so it will be sad that there are less friends that can come,” Bloemhof said.

Regardless of the limited audience, Bloemhof said the cast for this year’s production is talented and excited for the show.

Dordt prides itself on its student engagement, and Defender Days is a way that the campus community can interact with families and alumni. Although in-person experiences will not be there this year, Bloemhof believes that there has been an understanding between Dordt and its community.

“If there was a way to have Defender Days, Dordt would find it,” Bloemhof said.

Social work department welcomes Leah Mouw

Sydney Brummel – Staff Writer

There are several new faculty members at Dordt this year, and two of them are in the social work department. One, Professor Leah Mouw, has returned to teach at Dordt after graduating from the university herself twenty-nine years ago.

“College was a fantastic experience. I loved my Dordt experience,” Mouw said. “I think that’s part of the pull of coming back...I think it was always in the back of my head that I’d love to go back and [teach] someday.”

Having grown up in Edgerton, Minnesota, Mouw felt familiar with the area around Dordt. After she graduated from Dordt, she moved to California and attended UCLA to attain her master’s degree in social work. After years in California, Mouw returned to Iowa last year.

“I appreciate that it’s a slower pace of life [in Iowa],” Mouw said. “I appreciate the people, their genuine kindness...I still prefer the California weather.”

Over the past twenty-seven years Mouw has been involved with numerous different paths under the umbrella of social work. In her career she has been involved in research, hospice care, level-one trauma hospitals, crisis intervention therapy, and adoption.

“I think one thing that I love is that even in all those different experiences, I have loved the field of social work,” Mouw said. “And one of the things I love about it is that you can do so many different things with the one degree.”

After Professor Mouw moved back to Iowa she served at Sioux Center Christian School as a school social worker. Soon after that, a position as a social work professor at Dordt opened.

“When I was in California, I would kind of dabble with looking at some of the Christian universities around there,” Mouw said, “and then God opened this up now.”

After years of experience in social work, Professor Mouw is now going to be passing along that knowledge to her students.

“One of my favorite things in teaching is that I can bring the real-life experience to the classroom,” Mouw said. “I didn’t just work one



Contributed photo

job; I worked a wide variety of different social work positions.”

This semester, Professor Mouw is teaching Introduction to Social Work, Human Behavior in the Social Environment, and Practice Methods to Communities and Organizations.

Mouw says she enjoys teaching these classes because they give her an opportunity to instill passion in the students for the field of social work in the name of Christ.

“To be able to use my faith and [see] how God is now going to give them the tools to go out and do the work that I have loved,” Mouw said. “I mean, there’s no better job.”

Finding joy in sewing

Rochelle vanderHelm – Staff Writer

The sewing crowd is a lonely one, especially for the few young people who choose to participate. It is a closet community (pun certainly intended). Young sewing enthusiasts do not generally display themselves publicly, so it is rare to meet a fellow seamster in real life.

I had known Christianna Marcy for quite some time before we “came out” to each other. We were in the library when I needed to covertly take a call from my mom about the fate of my grandmother’s sewing machine. I nearly fell out of my chair from excitement and as I geeked out (quietly, of course) about how I would love to inherit such a device. When I finally hung up, Marcy rolled her chair over to mine and asked if I was into sewing.

“Yes, I love it,” I replied.

“Oh, my goodness, me too! I love finding other sewers, it’s so rare!” said Marcy.

We gushed over sewing to each other in whispers for the next twenty minutes.

“When I do meet [seamsters], we connect right away. We are kindred souls!” said Marcy, a junior education major at Dordt.

Of all the practical skills that have fallen out of favor amongst the young-uns, sewing is high on the list. Fast fashion has all but eradicated the necessity or interest in tailoring and textile craftsmanship. However, with the growth of DIY fashion and sewing channels on online platforms like YouTube, Instagram, and even TikTok, the sewing community is gaining some attention.

Perhaps most surprising amongst the developments in the COVID-19 world, is the Great-American-Sewing-Machine-Shortage-of-2020. Parija Kavilanz of CNN outlined in August how “Even Walmart...was left scrambling and went from having a 100-day supply of sewing machines to just five days-worth of inventory in only 24 hours.” She attributes the shortage partially to enterprising individuals attempting to meet the demand for face masks brought on by social distancing guidelines.

Instagram shops devoted to home-made scrunchies have been overrun by the hordes of the floral face mask community.

“I love that many people wanted to start sewing so they could make masks for essential workers...When my workplace asked for more [masks], people rose to the challenge, dusted off their machines, and delivered beautiful masks. Each time I put them on, I felt a boost of encouragement that my community was behind me,” Marcy said.

Marcy runs her own mask-making business but has a longer history with sewing, being an enthusiast for many years and constructing garments to be worn.

“My mom grew up in a Mennonite family. There was an expectation that women learned to sew. She hated sewing,” Marcy said.

Because of this, her mom taught her at a young age. However, after visiting a 4-H sewing session, she fell in love and her parents bought her first sewing machine in 2013.

“My favorite way to sew is coming up with a design in my head and creating it.” Marcy has two garments on display in Dordt’s quarantine art show – an evening gown and a summer dress. They stand out among other contributor’s paintings, drawings, and even a crocheted shawl.

“People call sewing a ‘lost art.’ I don’t think it is lost, yet.”

-Marcy

“As long as people love fashion, there will be seamstresses. It just depends if we will allow factories to mass produce our fashion or if we, the consumer, will play a part in creating fashion.” Marcy said. “A shortage of masks was a great way to get started sewing. I hope people won’t soon forget the joy of sewing.”

Men's golf eyes GPAC championships

Caleb Pollema- Staff Writer

Rain and wind are the last things a golfer hopes to deal with on a day out at the links. But for the first two tournaments of the year, the Dordt men's golf team had to cope with both.

The team began their season at the Blue River Classic in Nebraska. The two-day event started in Beatrice, at the Beatrice Country Club, and finished in Lincoln, at the Highlands Golf Course.



Contributed photo

The Defender men started strong with a first day score of 81 from senior Ryan Feauto and scores of 83 from both senior Brandon Vande Griend and junior Blake Harmsen.

Dordt would finish the day in second place with a team score of 333, just behind Iowa Western.

And as the team headed to Lincoln for day two of the competition, the rough weather continued.

The team finished the final day of the tournament with a 314 and a combined score of 627.

Feauto finished the second day with a 78, landing him in a tie for twelfth place individually. The team finished in third behind two teams from Iowa Western.

Head coach Jon Crane expressed his pride in his team despite the weather conditions.

"They battled through two days of rain, wind, and cold and really showed heart," Crane said.

"I'm very proud of how they stayed positive and played hard for the last two days."

With the first tournament of the year under their belts, the team turned their attention to an event closer to home, the Siouxland Invite.

Dordt hosted the first day of the tournament at the Ridge Golf Club in Sioux Center and Northwestern hosted the second day at the Landsmeer Golf Club in Orange City.

The Defenders ranked second as a team with a 290 score at the end of day one. A 66 stroke performance from Feauto, a 73 from Harmsen, and a 75 from Colin Kloostra led the effort.

In fact, Feauto's 66 sets a new school record for the lowest 18-hole score in a tournament. At the tournament, it placed him at five under par and tied for first individually.

Still, the wet and foggy weather failed to alleviate as the tournament headed to Landsmeer.

"In tough conditions, it's necessary to just focus on one shot at a time so you don't feel overwhelmed," junior Ryan Fedders said. "I feel like all the guys on our team stayed patient and trusted in our games to grind out pars and ultimately piece together a good round."

Despite the conditions, the Defenders finished in fourth place after a day two score of 302 and a combined two-day score of 592.

Harmsen finished the tournament tied for 3rd place with a combined score of 144 and Feauto earned a combined score of 145 that tied for 7th place. Sophomore

Freddy Bullock tied for 9th place in the tournament, giving Dordt three top-10 finishes in the wet weather.

"The team played really hard for two days in windy conditions," Crane said. "To finish with three players in the top-ten is a real accomplishment."

With two top-four team finishes on their resume to start the year, Dordt will turn its attention to upcoming Northwest Iowa Invitational in Le Mars at Willow Creek. A promising forecast with temperatures in the low 80s also looks for a nice change of pace.

Dordt hopes to continue to build off its strong play as it prepares for the GPAC Championship in Omaha, Nebraska, at Indian Creek, which is just over a week away.

"With the GPAC tournament coming up soon, a lot of us are playing our best golf of the year," Fedders said. "It's going to be exciting how we match up with the other teams, and hopefully we can head down to Omaha and post some good rounds."

The Defenders are confident in their play and are looking forward to an exciting finish to the season.

Dordt football adjusts to new season

Connor Van Hulzen- Staff Writer



Photo credit: Connor Van Hulzen

Dordt football was guaranteed an unusual season this year. With managing everything that goes into a season—meetings, workouts, practices, travel, and even the games themselves—all while in the middle of a pandemic, adjustments were expected. Only a few weeks into their season, the football team discovered more changes than expected may be taking place.

After defeating Midland 22-14 in week one, the Defenders prepared to face the Jamestown Jimmies in week two. That preparation was cut short. That week, Jamestown announced a number players on their football team had tested positive for COVID-19. This meant the game scheduled for September 19th would be rescheduled for October 10th and the Defenders were given an extra week to prepare for their next game.

The postponement of the Jamestown game was just another change at the hands of COVID-19. But the football team was determined to not let it alter their game plan.

"We've been treating it like any other week."
-Treischmann

"Even with the cancellation of the game on Saturday, we have kept practicing and focusing on the next opponent like usual," said Ashton Treischmann, a junior safety.

The Defenders are hoping an extra week

of preparation will give them an extra boost against their next opponent, Dakota Wesleyan.

"Even with our bye week coming a little earlier than expected, we've been able to use it to our advantage and prepare for our game like any other but just with the benefit of some added practice time and some more chances to study the opponent and prepare for what they'll show us on Saturday," said Griffin Pelot, defensive line coach.

Dordt enters the game with their 1-0 record while Dakota Wesleyan arrives with a 0-2 record after losing to Hastings and Northwestern in their first games of the season.

In a year with some radical changes, a less noticeable one includes the fact that the Defenders will not play their first home game until week four of their season, because of the postponement with Jamestown.

"It is definitely a little weird to have our home opener that late into the season, but the team has done a good job of adapting to the challenges that are thrown their way," Pelot said. "I know the team and we as a coaching staff can't wait to get in front of our fans in Sioux Center and show them what we've been working on for this season."

Dordt football is hoping that in a season filled with change and uncertainty, they will overcome and reach new heights. Every season bears its own challenges – injuries, painful losses, long nights, and early mornings—and the Defenders have worked past them in years previous and are hoping to do the same this season and in the seasons to come.

The Defenders' next game is on Saturday the 26th against the Dakota Wesleyan Tigers in Mitchell, South Dakota at 1:00pm.



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